



From the Early Steps State Office

July 2007

Dear Friends,

On November 19, 2004 the full United States House and full United States Senate passed the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reauthorization legislation. On December 3, 2004, President Bush signed H.R. 1350 into law. It is now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004, Public Law 108-446. This legislation directly impacts Florida's Early Steps system, as the system designated in Florida to implement Part C of the IDEA.

There are numerous websites and resources that outline the changes to IDEA legislation which can be viewed at <http://www.nectas.unc.edu/> and <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>. I also encourage you to ask your Local Early Steps for possible resources, if you are unable to access these websites. The draft Part C regulations were released by the US Department of Education on May 9, 2007. These draft regulations must have a 75 calendar day public comment period and public hearings are being conducted throughout the country. The proposed regulations may be viewed at www.regulations.gov through July 23, 2007.

Once these regulations are final, Florida's Early Steps system must develop and revise policies to meet these new requirements. There will be several opportunities for families, providers, and other interested parties to provide input on the draft policies Florida develops, including public meetings and electronically. Please let your Local Early Steps know you are interested in reviewing this information once it is available to help ensure Florida's Early Steps system continues to meet the developmental needs of infants and toddlers throughout Florida, and their families.

For up to date information on Florida's Early Steps system, including Florida's public reporting of Statewide and Local Early Steps performance, please visit www.cms-kids.org. I want to personally thank you for your interest and continued advocacy!

Sincerest Regards,

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